

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended): A sampling/analysis member ~~in a sampling and analysis member~~ which is used to assay for an analyte of interest in a sample comprising:

(a) a sampling wand having a sampling swab for collecting the sample of the analyte of interest; and

(b) an analysis structure for receiving the sample of the analyte of interest rinsed from the sampling swab and for retaining a medium with which member retains the analyte for the relatively rapid detection of the presence of the analyte of interest in the sample, the improvement which comprises as the medium the analysis structure having a reagent disc comprising a porous, non-fibrous absorbent polymeric material which has an absorptive capacity between about 5 g water/g of polymeric material to about 15 g water/g of polymeric material, and a pore size between about 0.004 mm to about 1.2 mm onto which a reactant system has been loaded by contacting a solution of the reactant system in a solvent with the polymeric material and removing the solvent from the polymeric material.

2.(Currently Amended): The sampling/analysis ~~sampling and analysis~~ member of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric material has a density of from about 0.05 g/cc to about 0.1 g/cc, and an average pore size of from about 0.2 mm to about 1 mm, a pore size range of from about 0.004 to about 1.2 mm, and an absorptive capacity of from about 5 g water/g of polymeric material to about 15 g water/g or polymeric material.

3.(Currently Amended): The sampling/analysis ~~sampling and analysis~~ member of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl acetal.

Claims 4-5 (Cancelled).

6.(Currently Amended): The sampling/analysis ~~sampling and analysis~~ member of Claim 3, wherein the polymeric material has a cylindrical shape.

7.(Currently Amended): The sampling/analysis ~~sampling and analysis~~ member of Claim 6, wherein the polymeric material has a height which is less than a diameter.

Claims 8-9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended): The sampling/analysis ~~sampling and analysis~~ member of Claim 1 ~~Claim 9~~, wherein the polymeric material ~~is a reagent disc which~~ has a density of about 0.05 g/cc; an average pore size of from 0.9 to 1 mm; a pore size range of about 0.2 mm to about 1.2 mm; and an absorptive capacity of approximately 15 g of water/g of polymeric material.

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended): The sampling/analysis ~~sampling and analysis~~ member of Claim 1 ~~Claim 11~~, wherein the solvent has been removed from the polymeric material by a method selected from the group consisting of evaporation, sublimation, freeze-drying or lyophilization.

13. (Currently Amended): The sampling/analysis ~~sampling and analysis~~ member of Claim 1 ~~Claim 9~~, wherein the reactant system capable of undergoing a reaction with adenosine triphosphate (ATP) to generate chemiluminescence as a product of the reaction has been loaded onto the reagent disc.

14.(Currently Amended): The sampling/analysis ~~sampling and analysis~~ member of Claim 1 ~~Claim 9~~, wherein the reactant system comprising a luciferase/luciferin system has been loaded onto the reagent disc.

15.(Currently Amended): The sampling/analysis ~~sampling and analysis~~ member of Claim 14, wherein the reactant system further comprises trehalose in an amount effective to increase the luminescence emission by a factor of from about 25 to about 100%.

16.(Currently Amended): The sampling/analysis ~~sampling and analysis~~ member of Claim 14, wherein the reactant system further comprises trehalose in an amount effective to increase the luminescence emission by a factor of more than 100%.